

REMARKS

I. Status of the Application

According to the February 17, 2005 office action, claims 1-14 are pending in this application. However, the records of both the applicant's attorney and the USPTO.GOV PAIR system evidence that preliminary amendment canceling claims 1-14 and adding new claims 15-34 was filed on January 15, 2004 ("Preliminary Amendment").

In the February 17, 2005 office action, the Examiner:

1. Allowed to claims 12 and 13;
2. Objected to claims 8, 10 and 14 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form;
3. Rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barker (US Pat. 6,084,462) in view of Grover et al. (US Pat. 6,825,105);
4. Rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foreign Application (JP 6-053 800) in view of Grover et al. (US Pat. 6,825,105); and
5. Deemed claims 4-7 and 9 allowable if rewritten in independent format.

In this response, applicant provides a listing of claims as they appear in the preliminary amendment. In that preliminary amendment, claims 1-14 were canceled and new claims 15-34 were added. It is believed that claims 15-34 are allowable over the prior art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

II. Applicant Requests Entry of the Preliminary Amendment

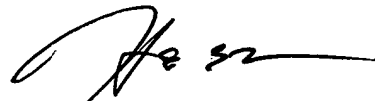
Accordingly, Applicant requests entry and examination of the claims in the Preliminary Amendment, which are set forth above. The Examiner has stated in a telephone conference that this would constitute a complete response to the office action.

It is noted that the Examiner's objections to, and rejections of, the claims are mooted by the Preliminary Amendment.

III. Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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